

Service (NASS), and (2) a total household income at or below the National Poverty Level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years as determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), using the Census Poverty Data.

*Outcome-based reporting* means reporting that includes an outcome statement with performance targets, necessary milestones, beneficiary engagement, key individuals, and verification.

[74 FR 45970, Sept. 4, 2009, as amended at 76 FR 35323, June 17, 2011]

#### § 3430.603 Eligibility.

To be eligible to receive an award under this subpart, the recipient shall be a collaborative State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, including:

- (a) A State cooperative extension service;
- (b) A Federal, State, or tribal agency;
- (c) A community-based and non-governmental organization;
- (d) A college or university (including a junior college offering an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university;
- (e) A private for-profit organization; or
- (f) Any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.

#### § 3430.604 Project types and priorities.

(a) *Standard BFRDP projects.* For standard BFRDP projects, competitive grants will be awarded to support programs and services, as appropriate, relating to the following focus areas and activities:

- (1) Mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships.
- (2) Resources and referral.
- (3) Assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from retiring farmers and ranchers.
- (4) Innovative farm and ranch transfer strategies.
- (5) Entrepreneurship and business training.
- (6) Model land leasing contracts.
- (7) Financial management training.
- (8) Whole farm planning.

(9) New and emerging issues, facing farmers and ranchers, including climate change and changing world markets.

- (10) Conservation assistance.
- (11) Risk management education.
- (12) Diversification and marketing strategies.
- (13) Curriculum development.
- (14) Understanding the impact of concentration and globalization.
- (15) Basic livestock and crop farming practices, forestry and range management.
- (16) Acquisition and management of agricultural credit.

- (17) Environmental compliance.
- (18) Information processing.
- (19) Tax management, including record keeping and tax form preparation.

- (20) Basic agricultural law.
- (21) Other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.

NIFA may include additional activities or focus areas that further address the critical needs of beginning farmers and ranchers as defined in this subpart. Some of these activities or focus areas may be identified by stakeholder groups or by NIFA in response to emerging critical needs of the Nation's farmers and ranchers.

(b) *Other BFRDP Projects.* In addition to the competitive grants made under paragraph (a) of this section, competitive awards (grants or cooperative agreements) will be made:

- (1) to establish beginner farmer and rancher educational enhancement projects that develop curricula and conduct educational programs and workshops for beginning farmers or ranchers in diverse geographical areas of the United States; and
- (2) to establish and maintain an online clearinghouse.

[74 FR 45970, Sept. 4, 2009, as amended at 76 FR 35323, June 17, 2011]

#### § 3430.605 Funding restrictions.

(a) *Facility costs.* Funds made available under this subpart shall not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

(b) *Indirect costs.* Subject to § 3430.5460, indirect costs are allowable.

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(c) *Participation by other farmers and ranchers.* Projects may allow farmers and ranchers who are not beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the programs funded under this subpart if their participation is appropriate and will not detract from the primary purpose of educating beginning farmers and ranchers as defined under this subpart.

### § 3430.606 Matching requirements.

(a) *Requirement.* Awardees are required to provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in an amount at least equal to 25 percent of the Federal funds provided by the award. The matching funds must be from non-Federal sources except when authorized by statute. The matching requirements under this subpart cannot be waived.

(b) *Indirect costs.* Use of indirect costs as in-kind matching contributions is subject to § 3430.52.

### § 3430.607 Stakeholder input.

NIFA shall seek and obtain stakeholder input through a variety of forums (e.g., public meetings, request for input and/or via Web site), as well as through a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, from the following entities:

- (a) Beginning farmers and ranchers.
- (b) National, State, tribal, and local organizations, community-based organizations, and other persons with expertise in operating beginning farmer and rancher programs.
- (c) The Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers established under section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1929 note; Pub. L. 102-554).

### § 3430.608 Review criteria.

(a) *Evaluation criteria.* NIFA shall evaluate project proposals according to the following factors:

- (1) Relevancy.
- (2) Technical merit.
- (3) Achievability.
- (4) The expertise and track record of one or more applicants.
- (5) The adequacy of plans for the participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience.

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(6) Other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) *Partnership and collaboration.* In making awards under this subpart, NIFA shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

(c) *Regional balance.* In making awards under this subpart, NIFA shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographical diversity.

### § 3430.609 Other considerations.

(a) *Set aside.* Each fiscal year, NIFA shall set aside at least 25 percent of the funds used to support the standard BFRDP projects under this subpart to support programs and services that address the needs of the following groups:

- (1) Limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in § 3430.602).
- (2) Socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e))).

(3) Farm workers (including immigrant farm workers) desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

(b) *Consecutive awards.* An eligible recipient may receive a consecutive grant for a standard BFRDP project under this subpart.

(c) *Duration of awards.* The term of a grant for a standard BFRDP project and an award for an educational enhancement team project under this subpart shall not exceed 3 years. Awards for all other projects under this subpart shall not exceed 5 years. No-cost extensions of time beyond the maximum award terms will not be considered or granted.

(d) *Amount of grants.* A grant for a standard BFRDP project and an award for an educational enhancement team project under this subpart shall not be in an amount that is more than \$250,000 for each year.

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